

Council Process and Organization

Learning Objectives

- Describe the Council responsibilities under MSA
- Identify similarities and differences among Council processes
- Describe how your Council is organized to support FMP development



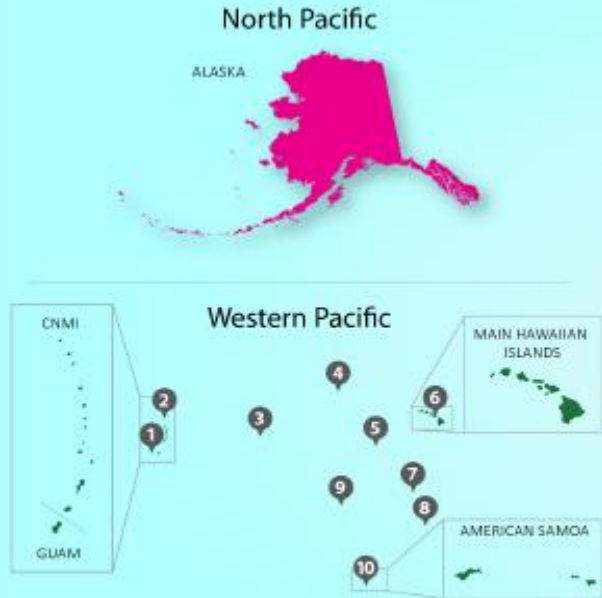
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

The Councils

Develop and amend fishery management plans for approval/implementation by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce



1. Guam; 2. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); 3. Wake Island; 4. Midway Atoll; 5. Johnston Island; 6. Hawaiian Islands; 7. Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef; 8. Jarvis Island; 9. Baker and Howland Islands; 10. American Samoa.



NOTES:

- **Washington** and **Oregon** have representatives on both the Pacific and North Pacific Fishery Management Councils.
- **North Carolina** has representatives on both the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Councils. The jurisdictional boundaries for managed species are generally at the North Carolina/Virginia border, with a few exceptions.
- **Florida** has representatives on the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils.

Caribbean

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
PUERTO RICO

Spiny Lobster



Example: SAFMC Plans

Dolphin/Wahoo



Coastal Migratory Pelagics



Golden Crab



Sargassum



Coral



Shrimp



Snapper/Grouper



Habitat



Ecosystem-Based



US Fisheries Management

- Inland Waters
 - Department of the Interior (US F&WS)
- State waters (up to 3 mi)
 - Fishery Commissions
 - State Natural Resource Agencies
- Marine Federal waters (>3mi-200 mi)
 - Department of Commerce (NOAA Fisheries/Councils)



US Fisheries Aquaculture Management

- Fisheries Aquaculture is managed by:
 - NOAA Fisheries
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
 - Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)





Other Council Responsibilities

- Prepare comments on applications for foreign fishing transmitted to it
- Conduct public hearings as appropriate
- Submit to Secretary requested reports or those deemed necessary by Council
- Revise specifications with respect to OY
- Develop research priorities w/ Council's SSC

Council Membership

- Voting members
 - Federal designee – (NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator)
 - State designees - marine fishery management official
 - Appointed by Secretary of Commerce
- Non-voting members
 - USFWS Regional Director
 - USCG Regional Commander
 - Executive Director of Marine Fisheries Commissions
 - US Department of State representative

Others at the Table



- Non-voting participants vary by Council
 - Other Council's Liaison
 - NOAA General Counsel
 - Fisheries Science Center
 - NOAA Law Enforcement
 - SSC Chair

Voting Members

- NPFMC – 11 members
 - 4 officials
 - 7 appointed
- WPFMC – 13 members
 - 5 officials
 - 8 appointed
- PPMC – 14 members
 - 5 officials
 - 9 appointed
- GMFMC – 17 members
 - 6 officials
 - 11 appointed
- CFMC – 7 members
 - 3 officials
 - 4 appointed
- SAFMC – 13 members
 - 5 officials
 - 8 appointed
- MAFMC – 21 members
 - 8 officials
 - 13 appointed
- NEFMC – 18 members
 - 6 officials
 - 12 appointed

Conduits for Public Input

- Fishing Community (fishermen, processors, group reps.)
- State Fisheries Officials (represent stakeholder interests in states)
- Others (scientists, ENGOs, public/seafood consumers)





- Council Members
 - Chair/Vice-Chair
 - Executive committee
 - Committee Structure (Species, FMP, Topic, etc.)

Council Structure | Staff and Other Groups

- Council Staff
 - Executive Director
 - Technical staff
 - Administrative staff
 - Plan Development, Action, and Monitoring Teams
- Advisory Groups
 - Advisory Panels
 - Scientific and Statistical Committee
 - Other groups?

- Comprised of Council Staff, NOAA Fisheries Staff, sometimes others
- Different names: Plan Development Teams, Fishery Management Action Teams, Monitoring Teams
- Folks doing lots of technical work and writing – described in regional operating agreements

Scientific and Statistical Committees

- Ongoing scientific advice,
 - Acceptable biological catch (ABCs),
 - Preventing overfishing,
 - Maximum sustainable yield (MSY),
 - Rebuilding, socioeconomic., etc.
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- For stock assessments, regions have other peer review process:
 - SAW/SARC
 - SEDAR
 - STAR

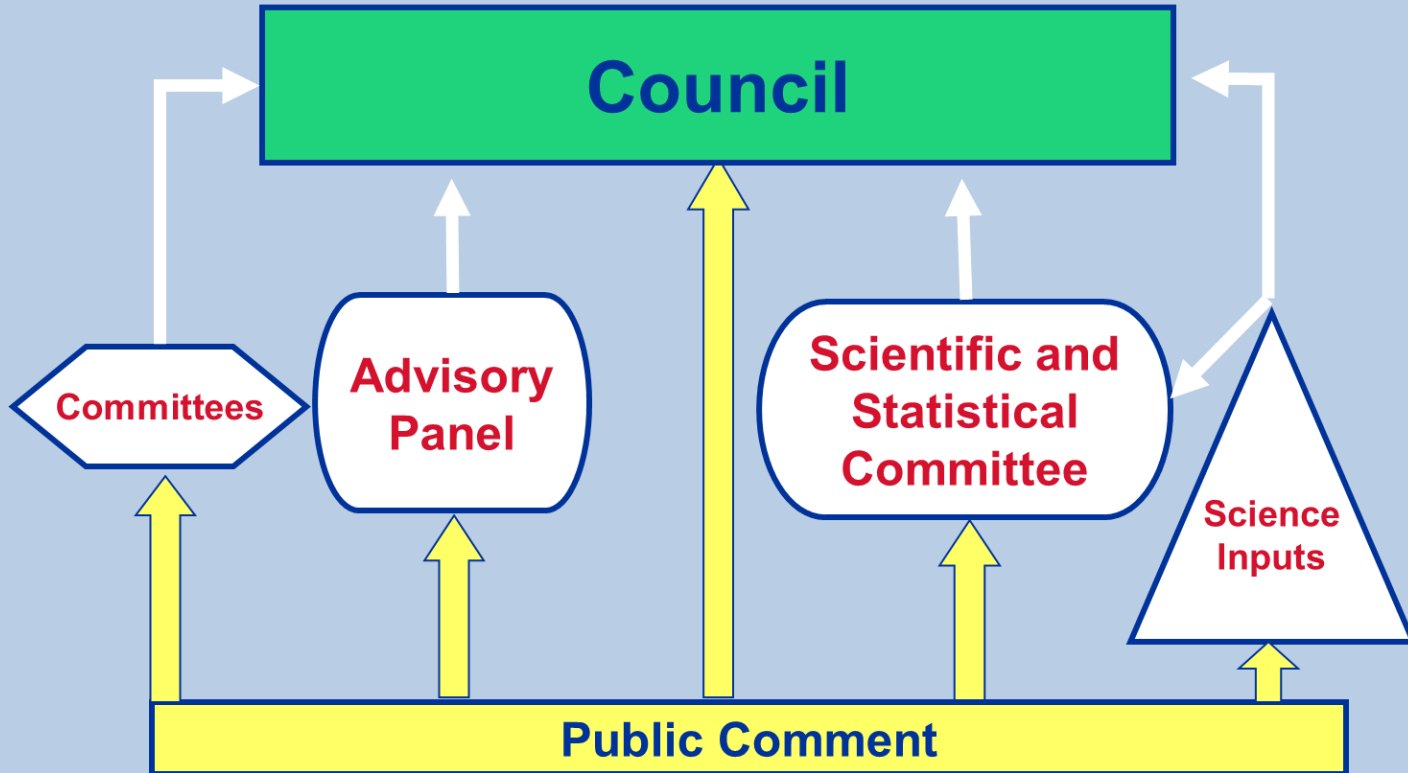


Council Structure | Advisory Panels



- Industry advisory panel
- Organized very differently across Council's
- Means to facilitate stakeholder input into FMPs and other actions

Council Structure





Council Structure Handouts: Fisheries Forum



Public Meetings | Public Process

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

- Councils, their Committees and Advisors are exempt from FACA
- The FACA applies whenever an agency:
 - seeks consensus advice
 - from a group that includes at least one person who is not a regular Federal employee, and
 - obtains input for its own operations or activities.



Questions and Activity?

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